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U.S. Application No. 09/709,038 Examiner LEZAK, Arrienne, Art Unit 2143
Response to First Office Action

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying to a user an availability of members through their contact devices, comprising:

storing a profile on each member, the profile identifying at least one contact device for each member;
providing information on the profile for each member to the user; and
tracking a communications presence of the contact device for each member, the tracking including determining the availability of the contact device for each member, and
allowing the user to select which contact device to initiate communication with each member.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting a graphical indicator that allows the user to select which contact device to initiate communication with each member ~~the user to initiate communications with the member through the contact device.~~
3. (Originally Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a notification that the contact device associated with each member is active.
4. (Originally Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising connecting the user to the member having the active contact device.
5. (Originally Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a communications circle of members for each user.
6. (Originally Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the availability of the contact device comprises querying the contact device.

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7. (Originally Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the availability of the contact device comprises querying a network provider associated with the contact device.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein allowing the user to select the contact device ~~initiate communications with the contact device~~ comprises connecting the user to the contact device.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein allowing the user to select the contact device ~~initiate communications with the contact device~~ comprises sending a message to the contact device.
10. (Originally Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the profile comprises enabling a plurality of contact devices to be stored for each member.
11. (Originally Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the profile comprises storing addressing information for each contact device.
12. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating communication between a user and members of a communications circle, comprising:

a database for storing profiles of all members of the communications circle, each profile identifying at least one contact device for each member; and

a communications server for retrieving the profile from the database and for determining an availability of the contact device for each member in the communications circle, the communications server providing the profile and information on the availability of the contact device to the user upon request, the communications server also accepting the user's selection of which available contact device to initiate communication with each member;

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wherein, from the profile and the information on the availability of the user, the user can initiate contact with any one of the members in the communications circle.

13. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the database stores a code number for correlating the profile and communications circle information of the members.
14. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the information on the availability of the contact device indicates if the contact device is active.
15. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the profile includes an address for the contact device.
16. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the communications server connects the user to one of the members in the communications circle.
17. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through the Internet.
18. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through an email message.
19. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through a page sent to the one member.
20. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the contact device of the one member comprises a wireless device and the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications through a wireless network.

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21. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the one member of the communications server has an interactive television and the communications server connects the user to the interactive television of the one member.
22. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the one member of the communications circle has a personal computer with access to the Internet through an internet service provider and the communications server connects the user to the personal computer of the one member.
23. (Originally Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to an Internet appliance of the one member of the communications circle.
24. (Currently Amended) An interface for being provided to a user to display communications presence information on a user's communications circle, comprising:

a communications section for displaying the members of the user's communications circle, each member in the communications circle having at least one contact device through which each member may communicate with the user; and

a profile section for displaying profile information on each member of the communications circle, the profile information identifying each member, listing contact devices associated with each member, and displaying an availability of each of the contact devices; and

a contact section for presenting a graphical indicator that allows the user to select an available contact device to initiate communication with each member;

wherein the user is able to determine which contact device is available by viewing the profile information on the members of the communications circle and can initiate contact with any member having an available contact device.

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25. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section displays a name of each member in the communications circle.
26. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section displays the contact devices associated with each member of the communications circle.
27. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section has a link for allowing the user to view the profile section.
28. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface includes the profile section for each of the members in the communications circle.
29. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the profile section address information for the contact devices associated with each member and the availability of each contact device.
30. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface further includes a contact section for accepting the user's selection of which available contact device to initiate communication with each member ~~allowing the user to communicate with an available contact device in the user's communications circle.~~
31. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a personal computer.
32. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a wireless device.
33. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display through a pager.

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34. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display through a wireless telephone.
35. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on an interactive television.
36. (Originally Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a personal digital assistant.

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